

Appl. No 10/724,935

Amtd. Dated

Reply to Office action of 05/12/2005

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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A rolling element retainer comprising:

a plurality of partitions, which serve to separate for separating [the] sequential rolling elements from each other, each partition is provided at both sides with a curved face in corresponding to a curvature of the rolling elements;

a plurality of link-rings, which are employed to connect for connecting the partitions together;

wherein each of the partitions and the link-rings [being] is an independent unit, the rolling element retainer in accordance with the present invention comprised of such plural comprises a plurality of such independent units, the engagement between the respective independent units is achieved by a cylindrical ring portion swingably angular movably engaged with a curved surface, by this way, a rolling element retainer can be formed by alternatively

connecting the link-rings and the partitions together, and such that the rolling element retainer ~~possessed with universal~~ can has a good cornering ability.

2. (Currently amended) The rolling element retainer as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the partitions is provided with a trough, whereas each of the link-rings is provided with ring portion, a rolling element retainer with desired length can be formed by engaging the ring portion of the link-rings in the trough of the partitions.

3. (Currently amended) The rolling element retainer as claimed in claim [1] 2, wherein the trough of each of the partitions is formed with a curved bottom so as to allow relative angular movement in left-to-right direction between the partition and the link-ring.

4. The rolling element retainer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ring portion of each of the link-rings is slightly cylindrical shaped, so as to allow relative angular movement in vertical direction between the partition and the link-ring.

5. (Currently amended) The rolling element retainer as claimed in claims 2, 3 or 4 2 or 3, wherein each of the link-rings is ~~complete ring an~~ O-ring shaped [as] structure having a ring portion defined at its both sides, whereas on both sides of each of the partitions is provided an trough, ~~in this way, so that~~ a rolling element retainer with desired length can be formed by engaging the ring portions of the link-rings respectively in the troughs of the partitions.

6. (Currently amended) The rolling element retainer as claimed in

claims ~~2, 3 or 4~~ 2 or 3, wherein each of the link-rings is shaped as an incomplete a C-shaped ring [which] having an open end provided with two fixing ends, and another side of each of the partitions opposite to the trough is provided with a groove for engaging with the fixing ends of the link-ring, such

5 that the link-ring can be connected to the partition.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) The rolling element retainer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the respective link-rings and the partitions ~~can be~~ are made of wear-resisting flexible material, so as to improve the cornering ability and

10 prolong the service life of the rolling element retainer.